



TENNESSEE
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION



The Condition of Higher Education in Tennessee

The 2nd annual report on progress toward the revised goals of *Challenge 2000* for the State's Public and Private Higher Education Institutions.

Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

The Condition of Higher Education in Tennessee: Background

- 1984 Higher Education - Bragg marks
- 1989 Public Act established *Challenge 2000*
- 1993 Public Act required triennial study of independent institutions
- 1994-2001 - Progress reported on Challenge 2000, a performance report based upon SREB's *Educational Benchmarks 2000* study.
- 2002 Revised goals and benchmarks



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

The Original Goals of *Challenge 2000*

- Tennessee will be among the leading Southern states in providing college education to its citizens.
- Tennessee will be a national leader in improving the quality of instructional programs and demonstrating this improvement through statewide and institutional assessment.
- Tennessee's colleges and universities will be among the nation's leading institutions in preparing graduates with the knowledge and skills essential for effective teaching.
- Tennessee will have improved the quality and quantity of research and public service.
- Tennessee's higher education institutions will be able to compete for the very best faculty and staff.
- Tennessee's higher education institutions will have generated sufficient resources to achieve the high quality and access envisioned in these goals.



An overview of institutional and state-wide progress

Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

Reflections on
Challenge 2000

Enrollment Benchmarks



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

- Overall undergraduate headcount enrollment has increased 9% since 1990.
- Overall enrollment of Tennesseans in public institutions has increased almost 9% since 1990, and Tennesseans represent 87% of the total enrollment.
- Participation rates for female students have increased at three times that of their male peers.
- Participation rates for recent high school graduates have increased from 49% in 1994 to 56.7%.
- The undergraduate enrollment rate of African-Americans has increased 43% since 1990.

Quality Benchmarks



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

- The number of teacher education completers has increased 29%. Furthermore, Tennessee has approximately a 95% pass rate on the PRAXIS exam.
- Job placement rates remain high, with two-year institutions placing 90% of their vocational graduates.
- 98% program accreditation at universities; 100% at two-year institutions.
- In the university sector, persistence-to-graduation rates have increased from 43% for the 1985 cohort to 49% for the 1996 cohort.



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

The Condition of Higher Education in Tennessee

- *Conditions* builds upon external evaluations of Tennessee higher education
- *Conditions* was developed in cooperation with consultants external to THEC and the governing boards
- Indicators are tied to national and regional benchmarks of performance
- *Conditions* contains critical P-16 indicators
- *Conditions* provides a framework for educational excellence in Tennessee
- While striving for excellence, it is built upon realistic funding expectations

Goal 1 - Educating Tennesseans

Access and Attainment



By the year 2010, higher education will reduce the gap between Tennessee and southern region states in providing higher education to its citizens.

- By the year 2010, the combined headcount undergraduate enrollment of public and private higher education institutions in Tennessee will exceed 220,000.
- College participation rates of 18 to 24 year old African-Americans will be representative of their current proportion in the population of the state as a whole.
- By the year 2010, enrollment of students over the age of 25 in higher education in Tennessee will increase toward the southern region average.
- By the year 2010, retention rates at public colleges and universities will increase towards the SREB average.

Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

Goal 1 - Educating Tennesseans

Access and Attainment



By the year 2010, higher education will reduce the gap between Tennessee and southern region states in providing higher education to its citizens.

- By the year 2010, persistence to graduation rates at public colleges and universities will increase toward the SREB average.
- By the year 2010, persistence to graduation rates for African-American students will be within +/- two percentage points of other racial groups in Tennessee higher education.
- The percentage of Tennessee adults with baccalaureate degrees will reach the SREB baseline average of 21.7 percent.
- By the year 2010, the overall number of degrees and other awards granted by Tennessee higher education will increase by 10 percent.

Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

Goal 2 - Student Performance and Academic Quality

By the year 2010, higher education will improve the quality of instructional programs and student performance by linking assessment results with continuous improvement.

- The differential between the ACT score of entering freshman in Tennessee public colleges and universities and that of other SREB states will decrease.
- By the year 2010, passage rates on professional licensure examinations of graduates of Tennessee's public higher education professional schools will remain above national levels.
- By the year 2010, general education evaluation results for Tennessee higher education institutions will exceed national norms for the respective examinations used by universities and two-year institutions.



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

Goal 2 - Student Performance and Academic Quality

By the year 2010, higher education will improve the quality of instructional programs and student performance by linking assessment results with continuous improvement.

- By the year 2010, the level of student satisfaction with their overall higher education experience will exceed 90 percent.
- By the year 2010, the level of alumni satisfaction with their overall higher education experience will exceed 90 percent.
- By the year 2010, at least 90 percent of students who complete vocational programs at Tennessee's community colleges will successfully be placed in jobs related to their degree training.

Goal 3 - Enabling Tennesseans Seamless Education



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

By the year 2010, Tennessee will establish and document seamless educational transitions for students from pre-kindergarten through higher education.

- THEC and the SBE, in collaboration with others, will develop and align academic curricula, assessments and entry and exit requirements and will communicate them to Tennessee students.
- The number of high school seniors expressing an intent to participate in postsecondary education will increase, as will the number of high school graduates enrolling in higher education.
- By 2010, the number of high school graduates enrolling in public higher education will equal or exceed the SREB average.
- By 2010, the number of community college graduates completing university parallel programs enrolling in public universities will increase by 20 percent.
- The percentage of first-time freshmen aged 18 years of age or younger (2001 high school graduates) taking developmental studies courses at the university level will be reduced by 20%.

Goal 4 - Strengthening P-16 Education



By the year 2010, Tennessee colleges and universities will support and improve the effectiveness of teacher, school, and P-16 development programs.

- The numbers of teachers prepared by all Tennessee colleges will increase.
- The number of educators teaching on waivers and permits will decrease by 50%.
- The number of students enrolled in teacher education programs who received financial aid via the Tennessee Teaching Scholars program will increase by 10 percent.
- The percent of graduates completing teacher preparation programs who become teachers in Tennessee will increase by 10 percentage points.

Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

Goal 5 - Financial Resources and Utilization



By the year 2010, Tennessee will improve higher education resource efficiency and development in reference to national benchmarks.

- By the year 2010, the gap between Tennessee and other SREB states with respect to average faculty salaries will be reduced.
- By the year 2010, the percent of courses at universities taught by full time faculty will increase.
- By the year 2010, the average per FTE funding rate in Tennessee will be approximate to the SREB average.
- By the year 2010, financial award funds distributed by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) will increase.

Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

Goal 5 - Financial Resources and Utilization



By the year 2010, Tennessee will improve higher education resource efficiency and development in reference to national benchmarks.

- By the year 2010, the number of awards presented by TSAC for the prestigious Ned McWherter scholarship will increase.
- The difference between the level financial aid available to Tennessee college students in comparison with national levels will be decreased.
- By the year 2010, a new methodology for determining and comparing instructional costs in higher education will be implemented and will provide national benchmarks for comparing, tracking, and managing instructional costs.

Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

Goal 6 - Workforce, Economic and Community Development

By the year 2010, the role of higher education in Tennessee workforce, economic, and development will be delineated, documented, and strengthened.

- By the year 2010, the economic impact of higher education credentials upon individuals, communities, and the state will be documented and tracked.
- By the year 2010, state expenditures from restricted accounts in support of research will increase over baseline amounts.
- By the year 2010, expenditures for public service will be increased over baseline amounts.
- By the year 2010, job placement rates for graduates of Tennessee Technology Centers will be maintained at current levels.



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

The Charge to Stakeholders

- The *Conditions* report articulates six central goals and indicators for Tennessee higher education. These priorities serve as focal points for state-wide planning activity.
- However, the plan is not complete until it is implemented in both activity and intent. It will be the task of key stakeholders including statewide and local P-16 councils, Tennessee's postsecondary institutions and school systems, the Governor, and the General Assembly to develop and support these priorities by building the infrastructure necessary to accomplish these ambitious, but essential goals for the future of education in Tennessee.

Conclusions



Tennessee
Higher
Education
Commission

The importance of a vibrant higher education system for the future of Tennessee cannot be understated. Both civic and corporate partners and those within higher education acknowledge that higher education is the engine that will drive Tennessee's economy in the new century. In an economic era that demands technical expertise, Tennessee must improve the quality of education that it provides to its citizens if they are to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Of equal importance, higher education serves as the guarantor and the protector of those principles central to the cultural and political health of our democracy.



TENNESSEE
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION